**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND HONOR HISTORIC BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL IN RICHLAND COUNTY AND TO RECOGNIZE 2016 AS THE SCHOOL’S COMMEMORATIVE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION YEAR.

Whereas, the Booker T. Washington School was opened in 1916 on Marion Street between Blossom and Wheat Streets in Columbia and served as a center for public school education and training for African Americans in the greater Columbia area until its closing in 1974; and

Whereas, the historic Booker T. Washington School began its extensive, storied, and dedicated journey as one of the state’s earliest schools for African Americans with the elementary grades and grew to become the revered and respected Booker T. Washington High School, graduating more than seven thousand students since its first high school graduating class in 1924; and

Whereas, the highly trained and dedicated administrators, faculty, and staff members, as well as the proud and supportive parents and community members, all worked diligently over the years to develop and enhance a thirst for knowledge and appreciation for learning among all of the Booker T. Washington High School students, encouraging and nurturing excellence in academics, the fine and performing arts, the vocations, and athletics; and

Whereas, the administration, faculty, and staff members, as well as the parents and community members, planned, developed, and offered programs and activities that encouraged and prepared students for leadership and service; that developed character, integrity, and responsibility; and that valued dignity and respect; and

Whereas, Columbia’s historic Booker T. Washington High School provided opportunities that enabled its students, faculty, and staff members to represent the school, the community, and the State in a positive, productive, and outstanding manner in all aspects of life throughout the United States and around the world; and

Whereas, the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation was established in 1974 in Columbia to preserve and protect the rich history of the school and to ensure a lasting legacy so that the achievements, accomplishments, and contributions of the school and its students would not be forgotten; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the activities to celebrate the centennial commemoration of the historic institution will be launched at the Booker T. Washington Building in Columbia on February 28, 2016, which will include the annual homecoming reunion to be held this year on June 24, 2016. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, acknowledge and honor historic Booker T. Washington High School in Richland County and recognize 2016 as the school’s commemorative centennial celebration year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Henry Hopkins, President of the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation, and to Doris Glymph Greene, Chairperson of the Centennial Celebration Committee.

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